

REMARKS**Summary of the Office Action**

Claims 18-28, 30-33 and 35-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,782,402 to *Hidaka et al.*

Claim 29 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hidaka et al.* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,289,378 to *Meyer et al.*

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of independent claims 18, 33, and 35. Accordingly, dependent claims 19-32, and 36 are allowable at least because of their dependence from claim one of claims 18 or 35.

Applicant has amended claim 37.

Applicant has added claim 38.

Claims 18-33 and 35-38 are pending.

All Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 18-28, 30-33, and 35-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Hidaka et al.* Claim 29 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hidaka et al.* in view of *Meyer et al.* Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(e) and 103(a).

Claim 18 recites wherein the management device, the image reader and the display operation part are connected over a network. Applicant's Fig. 1 illustrates a network connecting

management server 1, scanners 2-1 to 2-n, display devices 3-1 to 3-n, scanner 4, clients 5-1 to 5-m, and printers 6-1 to 6-I. By contrast, *Hikada et al.* discloses a scanner 20 and printer 21 connected directly, (i.e. not over a network) to copy server 10, wherein the copy server 10 is connected to the network NW as illustrated by Fig. 1. In Fig. 3, *Hikada et al.* discloses the software configuration showing the functional relationships between elements in Fig. 1 (col. 15, lines 48-54). In Fig. 3, *Hikada et al.* discloses a copy server 10 comprising, in part, a network reception portion 111, a management portion 114, a scanner portion 115, and an operation panel portion 118 as illustrated by Fig. 3. Regarding claim 18, the present application is distinguished from *Hikada et al.* because the management portion 114, scanner portion 115, and an operation panel portion 118 are not connected over a network, but rather are connected directly to the copy server 10 wherein the copy server 10 is connected to a network by a network reception portion 111.

Claim 33 recites an image reader comprising a web server that supplies a Web page to the display operation part, wherein the display operation part has one or more divided screens and at least one screen shows common information of a plurality of the image readers. A scanner 2 comprising a web server is illustrated by Applicant's Fig. 2. To address this claim limitation, the Office Action cites Fig. 45, col. 2, lines 44-49, col. 3, lines 14-19, and col. 6, lines 46-67. Regarding, Fig. 45, *Hikada et al.* discloses a file subdirectory displayed in a tree fashion. Regarding col 2, lines 44-49, *Hikada et al.* discloses a scanner, a printer, and an operation panel. Regarding col. 3, lines 14-19, *Hikada et al.* discloses a terminal comprising a management information portion and a display portion. Regarding col. 6, lines 46-67, *Hikada et al.* discloses a computer readable medium at each terminal for storing a Java Applet and hypertext data at the terminal. Applicant respectfully submits that none of the four cited portions of *Hikada et al.*

discloses an image reader comprising a web server that supplies a Web page to the display operation part disclosed as claimed. As a result, the claim limitation wherein the display operation part has one or more divided screens and at least one screen shows common information of a plurality of the image readers is also not disclosed.

Applicant further submits that the claim limitation wherein the display operation part has one or more divided screens and at least one screen shows common information of a plurality of the image readers is contrary to the teaching of *Hikada et al.* *Hikada et al.* discloses a scanner 20 and printer 21 connected directly to copy server 10, wherein the copy server 10 is connected to the network NW as illustrated by Fig. 1. In Fig. 3, *Hikada et al.* discloses the software configuration showing the functional relationships between elements in Fig. 1 (col. 15, lines 48-54). In Fig. 3, *Hikada et al.* discloses a copy server 10 comprising, in part, of a network reception portion 111, a management portion 114, a scanner portion 115, and an operation panel portion 118 as illustrated by Fig. 3. Here, Applicant distinguishes the present intention from *Hikada et al.* because the reference management portion 111 or copy server 10 is coupled to only one (i.e. not a plurality) scanner portion 115 or scanner 20.

Claim 35 recites a management device having common display information displayed on the display operation part for a plurality of the image readers. To address this claim limitation, the Office Action cites Fig. 45, and col. 3, lines 17-19. Regarding, Fig. 45, *Hikada et al.* discloses a file subdirectory displayed in a tree fashion. Regarding col. 3, lines 17-19, *Hikada et al.* discloses a terminal comprising a management information portion and a display portion. Applicant respectfully submits that neither of the cited portions of *Hikada et al.* disclose a management device having common display information displayed on the display operation part for a plurality of the image readers as claimed.

Applicant further submits that the claimed management device having common display information displayed on the display operation part for a plurality of the image readers is contrary to the teaching of *Hikada et al.* *Hikada et al.* discloses a scanner 20 and printer 21 connected directly to copy server 10, wherein the copy server 10 is connected to the network NW as illustrated by Fig. 1. In Fig. 3, *Hikada et al.* discloses the software configuration showing the functional relationships between elements in Fig. 1 (col. 15, lines 48-54). In Fig. 3, *Hikada et al.* discloses a copy server 10 comprising, in part, of a network reception portion 111, a management portion 114, a scanner portion 115, and an operation panel portion 118 as illustrated by Fig. 3. Here, Applicant distinguishes the present intention from *Hikada et al.* because the reference management portion 111 or copy server 10 is coupled to only one (i.e. not a plurality) scanner portion 115 or scanner 20.

Claims 19-32 and 36 depend from one of independent claims 18 or 35 and recite the same combination of allowable features recited in one of independent claims 18 and 35, as well as additional features that define over the prior art. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(e) and 103(a) of claims 18-33 and 35-37 be withdrawn.

Applicant has added new claim 38. Support for new claim 38 is provided throughout Applicant's specification. Examination of new claim 38 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner, placing all pending claims in condition for allowance. Applicant submits that the claim amendments do not raise new issues or necessitate additional search of the art by the Examiner.

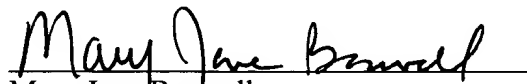
Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative to expedite the prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: November 14, 2005

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